United Nations A/C.4/53/SR.15

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
3 February 1998
English
Original: Spanish

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 3 November 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Macedo ..... (Mexico)
later: Mr. Çarikçi (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Turkey)
later: Mr. Macedo (Chairman) ..... (Mexico)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 85: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*) (A/53/127; A/C.4/53/L.8)

1. **Mr. Konishi** (Japan), having expressed appreciation for the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its April session in 1998, said that the purpose of the current session of the General Assembly in that connection was to build upon and further develop the results of the Special Committee's discussions. He thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for his helpful description of recent developments in peacekeeping operations.

2. It was a matter of grave concern that United Nations peacekeeping personnel and civilian personnel engaged in humanitarian assistance were subject to attack. So far in 1998 the number of civilian staff members killed in the line of duty exceeded that of military personnel. It was therefore imperative that the international community should pursue ways and means of enhancing the safety of all United Nations personnel — both military and civilian — in order to maintain the effective functioning and timely deployment of peacekeeping operations.

3. The problem of ensuring the safety of United Nations personnel was a complex one and must be addressed from various angles. First, it must be kept in mind that the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel were the responsibility of host countries and the conflicting parties. The Security Council must therefore explicitly demand that the parties to the conflict should fulfil their responsibilities in that connection, as it had recently done in resolution 1202 on the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA). Second, the adequacy of the international legal framework for protecting personnel must be considered. In that regard, the early entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel was very important, in order to send a clear signal that the international community would not tolerate a culture of impunity and to provide a legal framework for bringing to justice those responsible for criminal attacks against United Nations personnel. Another significant step towards the development of a legal framework had been made with the adoption in July 1998 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court; under the Statute, attacks against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission constituted war crimes (art. 8). Third, in addition to adopting a legal instrument, it was necessary to consider practical ways and means of enhancing the security of United Nations personnel on the ground. Some measures that might be taken in that regard were the demobilization of former combatants and the collection of arms, on the basis of detailed plans and past experience.

4. Furthermore, it was important to stem illicit arms flows; that was an issue on which the Secretary-General made valuable recommendations in his report on conflict and peace and development in Africa (A/52/871–S/1998/318). As the coordinator of the Security Council working group on the subject, Japan was determined to achieve concrete results in that area in cooperation with other Council members.

5. Two commendable measures that had been taken were the establishment, by the Secretariat, of the Trust Fund for the Security of United Nations Personnel and the security training activities organized by the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator. Japan reaffirmed its commitment to contributing $1 million in support of United Nations activities to enhance the security of its personnel. Information-sharing could also be an effective means of enhancing the security of United Nations personnel. Coordinated efforts should be made by the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations working in a particular region to collect and share information on that region.

6. With respect to the relationship between peacekeeping personnel and the local population, it was essential that the local population should understand that the purpose of United Nations operations was to promote peaceful settlement of conflicts. Japan had contributed to the trust fund set up for the purpose of informing the public about peacekeeping operations and planned to make an additional contribution to the fund in the near future. It also wished to stress the importance of ensuring a high level of discipline among United Nations peacekeepers in their day-to-day conduct. In that connection, it welcomed the initiative taken by the Secretary-General to raise the minimum age requirement for prospective peacekeepers.

7. The issue of the safety of personnel was one of the most pressing problems confronting United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian activities, which were essential for the maintenance of international peace and security; Japan therefore hoped that at its next session the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations would give the issue serious consideration, taking into account the Secretary-General's report, which would have been issued by then.

8. **Mr. Tekaya** (Tunisia) associated himself with the statement made by Jordan on behalf of the Movement of

Non-Aligned Countries and thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for his statement on United Nations peacekeeping activities. He said that although they had sometimes exceeded the limits set, United Nations peacekeeping operations continued to be one of the Organization's most important tools, which was why his country had always supported them and would continue to do so.

9. Conflicts were now more complex and more far-reaching than in the past. However, it had proved possible to adapt peacekeeping operations to new situations, and credit for that went to the Department for Peacekeeping Operations. It was of the utmost importance that the operations in question should respect the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, namely, the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs. The success of peacekeeping operations also depended on the observance of other principles, including consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence.

10. With respect to the strengthening of United Nations rapid intervention capabilities, he said that the standby arrangements system constituted a key to the increased effectiveness and rapid deployment capacity of peacekeeping operations. Another positive aspect was cooperation between troop- and equipment-contributing countries, which could broaden the base of Member States participating and enhance the ability of the United Nations to respond to crises in a timely manner. It was also important not to overlook the increasingly important role played by civilian police in peacekeeping operations, a role that should be clearly differentiated from military activities through the elaboration of relevant principles and guidelines.

11. The financial difficulties of the United Nations were an obstacle to peacekeeping operations and to prompt reimbursement of troop- and equipment-contributing countries, which in turn had an adverse effect on the ability of such countries to contribute to further operations. If all Member States were to pay their assessed contributions, progress could be made in solving the problem of financing peacekeeping operations and more countries would be inclined to participate. It was most regrettable that there were long delays in paying awards to wounded soldiers and the families of soldiers killed in peacekeeping operations. Expediting and simplifying the processing of claims would mean that such unfortunate situations could be avoided.

12. He wished to stress the role that regional organizations could play in peacekeeping operations, in close cooperation with the United Nations. In that context, the conflict prevention, management and solution mechanism of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) had played a vital role since its inception, despite the limited resources available to it. The mechanism had demonstrated the will of the African States to make preventive diplomacy a basic principle of OAU actions to eliminate hotbeds of tension and restore peace, security and reconciliation in Africa. His delegation welcomed the encouraging results of cooperation between the United Nations and OAU in the field of peacekeeping and noted that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was preparing, in consultation with OAU, a report on enhancing African peacekeeping capacity.

13. **Mr. Shrestha** (Nepal), noting that his delegation, was taking the floor in the Committee for the first time, welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/53/127) and the statement delivered by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. He also expressed his delegation's support for the statement delivered by Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

14. As a troop-contributing country, Nepal paid tribute to the 1,500 persons — its own nationals and those of other countries, who had sacrificed their lives on United Nations peacekeeping missions, and to the thousands of participants in peacekeeping operations who had been wounded in service. The international community should be particularly grateful to the 15,000 troops, military observers and police monitors and to the headquarters and field staff working in the 17 ongoing missions under the United Nations flag. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the introduction of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal and its presentation to the families of the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, Count Folke Bernadotte and Commander René de Labarrière, who had died while defending the cause of peace.

15. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to establish a minimum age for deployment with peacekeeping troops, and as military observers and civilian police monitors; Nepal had always sent adult and experienced personnel on peacekeeping missions.

16. His delegation stressed that, despite the reduction in the peacekeeping forces, the demand for such operations was likely to remain high. Moreover, those missions had become increasingly complex, since the traditional tasks of separating combatants had been expanded to include relief and rehabilitation, mine clearance, humanitarian and disarming tasks, human rights monitoring and the creation of infrastructures and democratic institutions. Moreover,

most conflicts were now internal. The know-how and experience of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must be utilized, and the Secretary-General must be provided with the necessary staffing and financing.

17. Regardless of the changes that might take place in peacekeeping operations, there were certain principles that must always be observed: impartiality, consent of the affected State, non-interference in its internal affairs and respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Another prerequisite for the success of peacekeeping operations was the clarity of their mandate, the provision of adequate resources and an enhanced rapid response capacity. With regard to the latter, it was encouraging that Member States were increasingly participating in the Organization's standby arrangements system. Nepal was prepared to provide 2,000 troops, including medical and engineering units, military observers and administrative staff, and 200 civilian police monitors at any given time at the call of the United Nations within a minimum response time. The establishment of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters unit in the Secretariat was vital for the success of the standby arrangements system, which was a broad-based and representative system open to the full participation of all Member States.

18. **Mr. Zohar** (Israel) said that his country was currently participating, together with its neighbours, in an arduous and historic process that combined peacemaking and peace-building activities. That process, which was being pursued outside the orbit of the United Nations, had recently led to the signing of the Wye River Memorandum between Israel and its Palestinian neighbours, which had been made possible, in part, by the invaluable assistance of the United States of America and Jordan.

19. While Israel had full respect for United Nations peacekeeping operations, experience had shown that, sometimes, peacekeeping solutions had to be found outside the framework of the United Nations. An example of that had been the dispatch of multinational forces and observers to Sinai in 1982 as a result of the peace treaty concluded between Egypt and Israel. Since no agreement could be reached in the Security Council, Egypt and Israel, with the United States of America acting as witness, had opted for a multinational alternative.

20. Israel was following with great interest the debate on the future of United Nations peacekeeping operations and had noted the proposal by the former Secretary-General, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, for a wider use of civilians as the spectrum of peacekeeping missions broadened.

21. As his delegation had stated, Israel stood ready to participate in civilian and humanitarian aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as it had always done. It wished to share, once again in 1998, the vast experience it had acquired in the field of liaison with peacekeeping forces, to which end it had organized a course on international liaison with the participation of members of the peacekeeping forces deployed in the Middle East. He reiterated the hope that, once its own regional peace process had sufficiently advanced, Israel could participate in peacekeeping activities in other parts of the world.

22. **Mr. Ngo Quang Xuan** (Viet Nam) said that his delegation supported the statement delivered by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and believed that the Committee could use that statement as a basis for carrying out a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations.

23. During the past 50 years, peacekeeping operations had become an important means of settling conflicts peacefully and promoting international peace and security. However, peacekeeping operations were not in themselves solutions to conflicts, but merely ad hoc measures for preventing conflict situations from escalating while efforts were made to find peaceful solutions. At the same time, peacekeeping operations should not be regarded as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. In order to resolve a conflict by peaceful means, it should be addressed in a coherent, coordinated and comprehensive manner, on the basis of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

24. In that regard, he reiterated his country's support for the guiding principles regarding peacekeeping operations contained in the final document adopted by the eleventh ministerial conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cairo on 3 June 1994. Respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, as well as non-intervention and non-interference in matters that were essentially within domestic jurisdiction, the principle of impartiality and the consent of the parties concerned, were crucial to the success of peacekeeping operations. It was important for peacekeeping operations to be provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures as well as secure financing.

25. He welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 51/218 E of 17 June 1997, especially its provisions relating to the establishment of uniform and standardized rates for the payment of awards in cases of

death and disability sustained by troops in the service of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. He also welcomed the Secretary-General's report on procurement reform as outlined in document A/52/534, and emphasized the importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of peacekeeping operations. Moreover, the principle of equitable geographical distribution should be applied to procurement and the Secretariat should take appropriate measures to increase procurement from developing countries and strengthen accountability and reporting for procurement in the field.

26. He welcomed the expansion of the membership of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and, in that connection, the adoption of General Assembly resolution 52/69 of 1 December 1997, which had also welcomed the expansion of the membership of the Special Committee. Concerning the increasing use of civilian police personnel in peacekeeping operations, it was important to develop, at an early phase of operations, agreed guidelines on the principles governing the role of civilian police personnel in such operations. Moreover, he fully supported the view of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries that broader geographical representation should be taken into account in the selection of civilian police personnel.

27. His country fully endorsed the position of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time, and without conditions, bearing in mind the special responsibility of States permanent members of the Security Council. Given the increasing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of peacekeeping, it was relevant to stress that the United Nations should be the primary body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Regional peacekeeping efforts should be based strictly on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and should be pursued in consultation with all countries concerned. Lastly, peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for sustained economic growth or development; durable peace depended on the elimination of inequities and inequalities in that area.

28. **Ms. Arystanbekova** (Kazakhstan) said that, in recent times, the international community had been able to avoid large-scale regional conflicts, thanks to effective cooperation between various United Nations institutions and the States Members of the Organization. However, despite the progress achieved in the peacekeeping sphere in a number of regions, various types of conflicts and local wars were still breaking out in various parts of the world. She shared the view that it was necessary to enhance the Organization's capacity in the area of peacekeeping on the basis of the provisions of the Charter.

29. She supported the measures proposed by the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations rapid deployment capability, and approved the work done in that regard by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Department had been able to considerably expand the number of participants in the standby arrangements system, that now included 74 States, among which was Kazakhstan.

30. Despite the trends of the past few years towards decreasing the overall number of deployed troops and reducing peacekeeping budgets, efforts to further increase the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping activity should be maintained. The proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report regarding the need for further development of the system for training staff at the national and regional levels and encouraging efforts in Member States to train personnel for peacekeeping missions should be carefully considered.

31. She supported the conclusion in the report of the Special Committee that the United Nations should actively cooperate with Member States in training personnel for peacekeeping operations, and paid tribute to the efforts of the Committee secretariat and the Department's Training Unit to organize study courses for peacekeepers and seminars on peacekeeping issues. The work of the Unit to provide assistance in training personnel through the production of various types of training support material and staff college modules was also worthy of commendation. In that context, certain difficulties had arisen with respect to using specific materials on peacekeeping activity, most of which were published in English. She hoped that ways could be found of issuing such materials in Russian, one of the official languages of the United Nations.

32. She recalled the establishment in Central Asia, under United Nations auspices, of a collective peacekeeping battalion made up of contingents from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. In order to improve the professional training of the personnel of the battalion, joint peacekeeping exercises had been conducted in 1997 and 1998 in the territories of the aforementioned three countries with the additional participation of contingents from Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Russian Federation, Turkey and the United States of America.

33. Her country would continue its efforts to make a practical contribution to enhancing the peacekeeping capability of the United Nations, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations submitted in the reports

of the Secretary-General and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on that item.

34. **Mr. Kamal** (Pakistan) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. He paid special tribute to the memory of more than 1,500 United Nations peacekeepers who had laid down their lives in the cause of peace. Many of them had been Pakistani soldiers. His country's commitment to United Nations peacekeeping efforts sprang from its fundamental belief in international peace, collective security, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and post-conflict peace-building. On the basis of those principles, his country had broadly participated in the peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations and would remain one of the largest participants in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

35. Another reason that had inspired Pakistan was the fact that it continued to be a beneficiary of one of the oldest United Nations peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The presence of United Nations peacekeeping forces had been a vital factor in the maintenance of peace and security in that region. He expressed gratitude to all those troop-contributing countries which were providing observers for that operation.

36. In view of the heightening tensions in the region in recent months, Pakistan had requested the Secretary-General to strengthen further the United Nations presence along the Line of Control with a view to effectively monitoring cross-border violations in the disputed territory of Kashmir. Pakistan had also emphasized the need to submit reports received from the mission area to the Security Council. In addition, it had requested the Secretary-General to appoint a special representative responsible for coordinating United Nations activities in that volatile region.

37. The goal of peacekeeping activities should be to determine the root causes of conflicts and violence rather than merely to separate warring factions. The case of Jammu and Kashmir was a good example of the tremendous pitfalls of undertaking peacekeeping operations half-heartedly. The failure of the international community to fulfil its commitments to the people of Jammu and Kashmir had brought India and Pakistan to a flashpoint early in the year. Although the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) had been established 50 years earlier, the United Nations had made no sustained or determined efforts to resolve the root causes of the conflict. The international community must play an effective role in achieving the objectives for which UNMOGIP had been established. If a solution had been found to the protracted conflicts in South Africa and Ireland, there was no reason why one could not be found in Kashmir.

38. There should be a more sustained attempt to achieve a political solution of disputes through more frequent recourse to Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. As the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations had said, peacekeeping represented the middle link in a chain running from peacekeeping to post-conflict peace-building. However, once a peacekeeping operation was established, it must not be subject to arbitrary liquidation or termination clauses.

39. Preventive diplomacy and preventive deployment should not be conditional on the consent of a party to the conflict. Nor should peacekeeping operations be predicated merely on the criterion of resource availability. With regard to the role of regional organizations in peacekeeping operations, his delegation believed that the functions carried out by a regional organization must be in strict accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The United Nations must continue to play the primary role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

40. His delegation praised the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to phase out the use of gratis personnel and welcomed the announcement that that task would be completed by 28 February 1999. New posts or those vacated by gratis personnel should be filled on the basis of the widest possible geographical distribution, with due regard for gender considerations. His delegation welcomed the recent General Assembly decision to authorize 400 posts for the Department in response to the Secretary-General 's request.

41. The slow reimbursement of troop contributions and contingent-owned equipment remained a matter of serious concern. Such delays caused hardship, particularly in the developing countries. All outstanding reimbursements must be accorded priority. Transparency in the procurement procedure needed to be enhanced and its geographical base must be widened. It was regrettable that only 1 per cent of all United Nations procurement was from the developing countries.

42. The Secretariat continued to give the impression that the initiative concerning the Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG) was part of the United Nations standby arrangements. Despite the Secretariat's categoric denial at the Special Committee's most recent meeting, reference continued to be made to SHIRBRIG as if it were a United Nations brigade. That was

incorrect. The Secretariat must provide the relevant clarifications on a priority basis. His delegation wished to emphasize that no particular region should be given a pre-eminent position in peacekeeping activities and that no particular regional brigade should be considered a United Nations brigade to the exclusion of others. The United Nations standby arrangements must include all the major and regular troop-contributing countries. In addition, broader geographical representation, with special emphasis on the developing countries, must be ensured in civilian police posts.

43. His delegation was not opposed to the proposal to strengthen the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the body responsible for reviewing all aspects of peacekeeping operations; there should, however, be a thorough review of the work of the Special Committee, taking into consideration various proposals submitted during its most recent meeting, including the proposal by Pakistan to divide the work of the Special Committee into two sessions of three to four weeks' duration, within the limited financial resources available to it, with a view to creating an effective mid-year review mechanism in order to ensure progress in the implementation of the Committee's annual recommendations.

44. With regard to the recommendations contained in paragraph 114 of the report of the Special Committee concerning the composition of its Bureau and the reorganization of its working methods, his delegation hoped that the Bureau and the Secretariat would hold consultations with all interested parties and submit their findings to the Special Committee for its consideration. In addition, his delegation requested the Secretariat to submit its report at least six weeks before the next session of the Special Committee in order to enable Member States to study it properly.

45. **Mr. dos Santos** (Mozambique) said that, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping operations, his delegation wished to pay tribute to those who had served under the United Nations flag in peacekeeping operations around the world, including in Mozambique.

46. His delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and praised the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for its excellent work, reflected in its report on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations (A/53/127). Like the Special Committee, his delegation believed that the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations should be respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, impartiality, consent of the parties and the non-use of force except in cases of self-defence. It also believed that preventive diplomacy and preventive deployment could be rendered viable if undertaken in close cooperation and coordination with established regional organizations and mechanisms; the United Nations should provide support to regional arrangements in order to strengthen their capacity to respond immediately to conflicts.

47. Furthermore, while the experience of Mozambique and other countries demonstrated that peacekeeping operations helped to create an enabling environment for the establishment of durable peace, their success depended on their prompt implementation. Accordingly, his delegation regretted the reduction of the peacekeeping operations budget and urged countries to show political will by providing the necessary resources.

48. His delegation supported all efforts aimed at creating the proper environment for dealing with the causes of conflicts, which, in more recent times, were mainly development-related. Sustainable development was a key element of conflict prevention and was an essential contribution to the achievement of peace and security. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the recommendations formulated by the Secretary-General in his report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871). Mozambique would continue to strive to make its modest contribution to operations organized for that purpose.

49. **Mr. Bune** (Fiji) said that the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping operations coincided with the twentieth anniversary of Fiji's participation in them. Fiji honoured all those who had served in United Nations operations, particularly those who had laid down their lives in the cause of peace, 33 of them from Fiji.

50. Fiji noted that peacekeeping was one of the essential functions of the United Nations and the peacekeeping operations had saved millions of lives over the past 50 years. Within its capacity, Fiji would continue to contribute troops to those operations. Nevertheless, it felt that there was a need to improve all components of peacekeeping operations, and endorsed the view expressed by the Special Committee in its report (A/53/127) that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, as well as non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. Based on its own experience in the field, Fiji also submitted that all peacekeeping operations must be provided

with clearly defined mandates, objectives and structures, and must be provided with the funds needed to achieve their objectives.

51. With regard to improving the management of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Fiji believed that the process of selecting its staff must be transparent and based on Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter, and that the Special Committee should address that issue in its annual report so as to allow progress in that area to be evaluated.

52. Fiji endorsed the importance of early planning and coordination of peacekeeping operations in order to reduce the risk of resumption of conflict and contribute to creating the conditions most conducive to reconciliation, reconstruction and recovery. Moreover, Fiji considered that post-conflict programmes were vital for peace and security and should be factored into all peacekeeping operations. Fiji had continuously called for a comprehensive international demining programme to end the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent civilians throughout the world, and welcomed the formation of the United Nations Mine Action Service.

53. Peacekeeping operations were mounted in response to outbreaks of conflicts and violence, but it was also necessary to anticipate and prevent such tragedies. Fiji again called on the General Assembly to establish a special unit for the prevention and resolution of conflicts. Fiji also saw a need to integrate civilian police operations fully into the planning phase of new peacekeeping operations, to set out clear and precise guidelines for the civilian police and to clearly differentiate civilian police and military assignments.

54. Fiji emphasized that host countries and others concerned must take appropriate steps to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, and strongly condemned attacks and acts of violence against such personnel. The question of personnel security must be integrated in the planning and execution of peacekeeping operations. Fiji was fulfilling its responsibility for the training of peacekeeping personnel but believed that the United Nations, which had a valuable role in developing and maintaining training standards, should assist countries by preparing training materials and maintaining a training course database. Finally, Fiji called on Member States to pay their peacekeeping assessments in full, on time and without conditionality and urged the United Nations promptly to reimburse countries that contributed troops and equipment and to adopt accelerated procedures for the payment of death and disability benefits.

55. **Mr. Sai** (Algeria) said that the numerous peacekeeping operations undertaken since 1948 were a manifestation of the international community's desire to come to grips with world conflicts. Those operations had seen improvement in execution and objectives; whereas in the beginning they had been undertaken solely in order to end hostilities and separate the opposing forces in a conflict, they had become more efficient and broader in scope, involved more personnel and were carrying out missions ranging from supervising ceasefires to providing humanitarian assistance. They had also become vehicles for rebuilding institutions and setting up economic and political structures in conflict-ridden countries. Such improvements were due in large part to the growing involvement of such international bodies as the Security Council and the General Assembly, and to newly established international organizations.

56. Algeria supported the statement made by Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries regarding the item under discussion. In that statement, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which played a pivotal role in peacekeeping operations in that it was the principal troop contributor, referred to the principles that must govern such operations, their operational aspects and the applicable norms and responsibilities. In that context, Algeria supported the work undertaken by the General Assembly with regard to the reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, the payment of death and disability benefits and the phasing out of gratis personnel.

57. Algeria, which had always shown itself ready to cooperate in support of world peace, had contributed troops to the Cambodian peacekeeping mission, military observers for Angola and civilian police for Haiti. It had also expressed its willingness to cooperate in the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) and had made aircraft, a medical unit and military observers available to the Organization. Nevertheless, Algeria's greatest contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations had been that made to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) since the establishment of that mission in 1991. In addition to the great quantity of funds and resources it had contributed, Algeria had expressed its willingness to sign an agreement currently under negotiation to deploy United Nations troops in the north-western part of Algerian territory adjacent to Western Sahara.

58. While Algeria recognized the recent successes achieved in peacekeeping operations, it was of the view that much remained to be done to overcome the difficulties impeding the rapid assembly and deployment of needed troops on the ground. It therefore supported the current standby arrangements system, which was essential to strengthening the rapid deployment capability of peacekeeping operations. Moreover, Algeria insisted on the need to ensure that those operations reflected an equitable

geographic distribution, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

59. Algeria endorsed cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in support of peace in Africa, and welcomed initiatives designed to strengthen the ability of African nations to maintain peace under Chapter VIII of the Charter. Nevertheless, while Algeria was of the view that OAU should play an important role in some peacekeeping missions on that continent, it should not replace the United Nations, which represented the authority charged with the maintenance of peace and security at the international level.

60. **Mr. Niculescu** (Romania) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Austria on behalf of the European Union. Romania continued to be an active supporter of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Over the past eight years, it had contributed more than 5,000 military and civilian personnel to such operations and had contributed and continued to contribute an engineering battalion to the Implementation Force (IFOR)/Stabilization Force (SFOR) operations in Bosnia. In 1997, it had joined the multinational coalition which had conducted Operation Alba in Albania, and in 1998, it had participated in 28 joint peacekeeping operations, three of them in Romania. In addition, 22 international training courses had been attended by its specialized staff. All those activities were aimed at ensuring strengthened capability and enhanced international cooperation in that field.

61. It was essential that the United Nations continue its efforts to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the Charter. In that connection, his Government believed that peacekeeping operations and humanitarian missions would prove as useful in the future as they had been in the past. It supported the measures taken to improve the process of defining mandates and to enhance the rapid reaction capability of the United Nations and its interaction with regional and subregional security organizations.

62. He was pleased to report that on 24 September 1998, his country had become the eighteenth Member State to sign with the United Nations the memorandum of understanding on standby arrangements. His Government was prepared to contribute to the establishment of blue helmet contingents by contributing an infantry battalion, a field hospital, staff officers, military observers and civilian police monitors. That commitment represented a total of over 1,000 fully equipped military and civilian personnel.

63. In 1998, Romania had joined the initiatives for the establishment of a Central European Nations Cooperation in Peace Support (CENCOOP) system and a multinational peace force in south-eastern Europe and had signed a letter of intent for admission to the Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG).

64. Despite the inherent difficulties of the process of transition to a market economy, Romania had met in full its financial obligations to the United Nations. The Organization, however, was in considerable arrears in reimbursing the Government for its troop contributions. Unfortunately, that situation was not a new one, but it had recently reached an alarming and almost unsustainable level. Member States in arrears must discharge their financial obligations immediately in order to prevent other countries which met their obligations from being adversely affected by the Organization's financial difficulties.

65. **Mr. Kolby** (Norway) said that, in the past decade, there had been an increase in violent internal conflicts, and that the extensive availability of small arms in conflict areas was a major obstacle to reaching and implementing peace agreements. His Government therefore believed that the demobilization of former combatants and the collection of small arms should be included in the mandates of future peacekeeping operations. To that end, it had decided to support the Lessons Learned Unit study on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration with a contribution of US$ 67,000.

66. There was also a need to increase women's participation in peacekeeping operations. Women played a key role in maintaining civil society during conflicts and in rebuilding society in post-conflict situations. His Government was pleased to announce that it had allocated US$ 107,000 for a study on gender perspectives in multidimensional peacekeeping operations, to be carried out by the Lessons Learned Unit in cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women. The important work of the Lessons Learned Unit should not be dependent solely on voluntary contributions, however; more funding for evaluation should be allocated from the regular budget.

67. There was a need to improve the planning and coordination of peacekeeping operations and to enhance the Organization's ability to respond rapidly to crises. His delegation therefore welcomed the establishment of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters and hoped that it would soon be fully operational.

68. Another important element of peacekeeping operations was the standby arrangements system. Norway had taken part in that system from the outset and intended to continue

to participate extensively through the signing of a memorandum of understanding. It was also participating in SHIRBIG.

69. Considerations of personnel security and safety were a fundamental part of peacekeeping operations. His Government was gravely concerned at the increasing security threat to United Nations personnel in the field, particularly civilian personnel and unarmed military observers. It therefore urged Governments to ratify the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.

70. Norway had contributed to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for 20 years. Owing to recruitment problems, it would shortly be withdrawing its battalion, but it was committed to maintaining its position as a major contributor to United Nations humanitarian and peacekeeping operations and to the strengthening of United Nations capacities in that area.

71. **Mr. Tasovski** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations and that peacekeeping continued to be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The numerous conflicts of various natures in different parts of the world made it important to define precise, feasible objectives for peacekeeping operations and to ensure sufficient resources for the successful implementation of mandates.

72. Peacekeeping operations must strictly observe the principles and purposes of the Charter, particularly the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs.

73. His delegation welcomed the strengthening of the process of consultation between troop contributors and the Security Council. It also commended the Secretary-General 's efforts to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the area of international security, and likewise supported efforts to enhance the rapid deployment capacity of the United Nations.

74. On 26 September 1998, seven countries of south-eastern Europe had signed an agreement for the establishment of a multinational peace force in south-eastern Europe, in order to contribute to the strengthening of peace and stability in the region and in Europe as a whole. Lastly, he stressed the important role of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in maintaining stability and peace in the region. That mission was generally viewed by the international community as one of the most successful missions of the United Nations.

75. **Mr. Suh Dae-won** (Republic of Korea) said that, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping activities, the Republic of Korea joined other Member States in paying tribute to those who had served, and even sacrificed their lives in the line of duty, under the United Nations flag. Although peacekeeping operations were not an institution enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, they had contributed greatly to the maintenance of peace and security and had successfully contained the spread of conflicts. Although participation in peacekeeping missions had dwindled over the past few years, their significance remained unchanged.

76. His Government welcomed the constructive work done by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations during the current year. It also endorsed the proposals and recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee (A/53/127) and supported their early implementation.

77. With regard to the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, his delegation welcomed the General Assembly's decision to phase out gratis personnel by the end of February 1999. It was important to expedite the recruitment process in order to replace departing gratis personnel, and to ensure that the phase-out was handled in such a way that the safety and welfare of personnel on the ground were not endangered.

78. His delegation welcomed the recommendation in paragraph 83 of the Special Committee's report, which underlined the need to protect humanitarian assistance in conflict situations. While it recognized the distinct nature of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities, it also saw a need to grapple with the unfortunate reality, which increasingly required the Department to take a proactive role in protecting humanitarian assistance in complex conflict situations. That was an urgent issue, given the recent trend of decreased respect for international humanitarian norms and increased attacks on humanitarian workers. The Special Committee must examine all aspects of the relationship between the Department and humanitarian operations, bearing in mind the relevant recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on that question (S/1998/883).

79. In order to increase effectiveness and save lives, intervention during the initial stage of a conflict was necessary. The standby arrangements system would play a key role in enhancing rapid reaction capabilities. His

delegation hoped that the system would soon be operational and that it would be further strengthened by the broadest possible participation of Member States. His delegation also supported the early establishment of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters at United Nations Headquarters and welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/12 of 26 October 1998, which authorized the recruitment of two officers for the mission headquarters.

80. Procurement for peacekeeping operations should be carried out with greater transparency and more equitable geographical distribution. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the recommendation in paragraph 71 of the Special Committee's report and urged the Secretariat to bear it in mind.

81. The formulation of clearer rules of engagement and common guidelines for training, based on lessons learned and consultations between the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries, was also essential to the efficient discharge of peacekeeping mandates. The promotion of standard training norms would greatly help to enhance solidarity and partnership among peacekeeping personnel from different countries.

82. Lastly, his delegation paid tribute to the over 14,000 United Nations peacekeepers around the world. Ever since joining the United Nations in 1991, the Republic of Korea had done its best to increase its participation in peacekeeping activities, and it remained strongly committed to the cause of peacekeeping.

83. **Mr. Hughes** (New Zealand) said that, currently, fewer than one in three soldiers on peacekeeping duty around the world wore the blue helmet. Many peacekeeping troops were in national uniform and were serving under regional arrangements duly authorized by the Security Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter. That did not mean that the level of United Nations peacekeeping activities did not remain high or that regional arrangements did not play an important role, but such a major change in the composition of international peacekeeping forces in a few short years posed a number of questions. To begin with, the evidence regrettably suggested that the ability of the United Nations to mount its own peacekeeping operations and manage them effectively was threatened. The serious arrears problem, including the failure of the largest contributor to meet its obligations, imposed serious budgetary constraints on the ability of the United Nations to embark on new operations.

84. A soundly structured Department of Peacekeeping Operations was also fundamental. The recommendations in paragraph 58 of the Special Committee's report must be implemented in order to ensure that departing gratis personnel were replaced. Moreover, the Department's Mine Action Service must be properly staffed and funded on a secure basis.

85. If sufficient support was to be forthcoming from Member States, the Secretariat must provide updated, detailed and accurate information on the optimum core capacity of the Department in terms of overall size and functions. His delegation expressed appreciation to all those in the Department who continued to serve with dedication and professionalism, and it particularly commended the work of the Lessons Learned Unit.

86. It was essential to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to react rapidly to new situations. His Government therefore remained an active proponent of the establishment of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, and supported the Secretary-General's assessment of the need to broaden and refine the United Nations standby arrangements concept in the areas of logistics and lift capability.

87. In addition to the budgetary and organizational factors which constrained United Nations peacekeeping activities, another and perhaps greater problem was that of the political will of Member States to promote and support United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Present-day conflicts were often the result of complex internal struggles, and there might not be unanimity as to the appropriate response by the international community. Even when there was wide agreement, solutions were not clear-cut and mandates were difficult to formulate.

88. Despite those difficulties, his Government remained a strong supporter of the United Nations role in the maintenance of international peace and security. Time and again, United Nations peacekeeping had proved indispensable for that purpose and, taken as a whole, over the past 50 years its successes had vastly outweighed its failures. Any problem which might weaken the Organization's capacity in that regard was therefore a source of serious concern and Member States must address it with a clear sense of urgency.

89. **Mr. Valle** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the members and associate members of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), said that he welcomed the opportunity to participate in a wide-ranging exchange of views on all aspects of peacekeeping operations and thanked the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for explaining his Department's situation. He also stressed the important contributions of the Chairman of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Ambassador of Canada, who had led the discussions of the Special Committee's Working Group.

90. He emphasized that peacekeeping operations were effective instruments for the promotion of international peace and security when used within a clear framework and under appropriate political conditions. If such operations were to be feasible, they must obey certain basic principles: the full consent and cooperation of the parties to the conflict, impartiality and the use of force only for self-defence. States, in turn, should support those operations by providing qualified personnel.

91. Over the past few years, there had been a considerable decrease in the number of troops participating in peacekeeping operations. No new operation of that type had been launched between 1995 and 1998; it was, therefore, particularly encouraging that the Security Council had initiated two new peacekeeping operations in 1998.

92. The fiftieth anniversary of peacekeeping operations was particularly significant for the MERCOSUR countries because its members had demonstrated on many occasions throughout those years their firm commitment to peacekeeping and international security. Members of MERCOSUR were currently contributing personnel and equipment to 12 of the 16 peacekeeping operations conducted by the United Nations in various parts of the world.

93. He noted that regional training centres had been established in Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Brazil had organized peacekeeping seminars and had developed a computer-assisted exercise known as "United Forces", in which the armies of Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and the United States of America had participated. It had also carried out joint military manoeuvres with the armies of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay and observers from Paraguay and had organized the so-called "Southern Cross" operation in order to carry out peacekeeping exercises. Uruguay, for its part, had been responsible for coordinating the "Ceibo" operation. Another example of cooperation with the United Nations in the field of human resource training was the training provided to members of the Manchego Battalion in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The United Nations should take full advantage of the capacities created by those cooperative activities and the knowledge gained from them.

94. Measures to prevent conflicts should be encouraged and diplomacy was the best means of prevention. Since most conflicts occurred in developing countries, social and economic development assistance was one of the most effective means of avoiding such conflicts. Peace and development were inseparable.

95. Peacekeeping operations should be adapted to the needs of the twenty-first century and to the changes resulting from the end of the cold war. He emphasized the role of the police in post-conflict peace-building and that of women in the rebuilding of war-torn societies. The effectiveness of peace-building activities was contingent on the allocation of significant bilateral and multilateral resources to the country in question. In that regard, available resources could be allocated more effectively if the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council coordinated their efforts.

96. Another important task before the United Nations was that of increasing its capacity to react effectively to situations on the ground. In order to achieve that goal, the structure of the standby arrangements must be improved. Those arrangements could be strengthened and consolidated through the establishment of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters staffed by officers from both developing and developed countries.

97. In view of the alarming attacks on United Nations personnel, it was particularly important to implement the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The members and associate members of MERCOSUR were taking all the necessary steps to accelerate the process of signature and ratification of that Convention.

98. As part of the action taken by DPKO to replace gratis personnel, the Secretariat should accelerate the recruitment process in order to replace those personnel on a broad geographical basis and in a transparent manner. Transparency and geographical equity were essential factors which must also be taken into account in the United Nations procurement system. Lastly, he praised the efforts made in order to establish an equitable system for the payment of death and disability benefits for peacekeeping personnel.

99. *Mr. Çarikçi (Turkey), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

100. **Mr. Méndez** (Venezuela) said that the Committee's consideration of agenda item 85 coincided with the international community's celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping operations. His delegation welcomed the General Assembly's recent adoption of a resolution recognizing the work of those who had served under the United Nations flag in more than 40 peacekeeping operations and paying tribute to all those who had laid down their lives in the cause of peace. There was no question that those operations had promoted the cause of peace and stability, as shown by the number of missions carried out to date.

101. Peacekeeping operations had become a particularly important instrument for the United Nations, but they could be viewed only as a complementary mechanism in efforts

to resolve conflicts through negotiation; peacekeeping operations could not be considered as a substitute for the pacific settlement of disputes provided for in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations.

102. Since 1988, the Organization had taken on increasingly complex and difficult tasks. Peacekeeping operations had diversified and were becoming increasingly complex and urgent. In order to strengthen the positive and correct the negative aspects of those operations, United Nations successes and failures in that field must be studied. His Government believed that peacekeeping operations should be carried out in accordance with the principles and objectives set forth in Article 2 of the Charter. In undertaking peacekeeping missions, it was necessary to bear in mind various important factors, including respect for the sovereignty of States, non-intervention in internal affairs, the consent of the parties concerned, impartiality and the non-use of force.

103. His Government shared the view expressed at the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries that a distinction must be made between peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance. Peacekeeping operations must not become an instrument of coercion, nor must they be confused with the peacekeeping measures established under Chapter VII of the Charter for situations which constituted threats to the peace, breaches of the peace or acts of aggression.

104. His delegation associated itself with the statement made to the Committee by the delegation of Jordan on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries with respect to DPKO use of gratis personnel; the introduction of consultations between troop-contributing countries and the Security Council; standby forces; civilian police; reimbursement of troop-contributing countries; cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in that regard; and the financing of peacekeeping operations.

105. In order for peacekeeping operations to succeed, it was more than ever necessary that each mission should have a clearly defined mandate and the requisite resources. Current realities demanded that a comprehensive approach be taken to the planning of such operations. The objectives of peace and security must be promoted through consensus.

106. **Mr. Gogsadze** (Georgia), referring to the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/53/127), said that, in establishing peacekeeping operations, the intra-State nature of new conflicts must be taken into account in order to decrease their violent and destructive force and make it easier to combat the terrorism, arms and drug trafficking and other crimes which they engendered. In addition, measures must be taken to avert conflicts or limit their potential consequences, through both preventive diplomacy and the preventive deployment of forces in affected areas.

107. Georgia also believed that the time had come to entrust the United Nations with more extensive enforcement tasks and that Member States should treat the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms as a top priority, taking into account the fact that peace enforcement required a different approach from peacekeeping and that the use of military force should be considered a last resort. Peacekeepers should also be entrusted with police functions. His delegation supported the strengthening of the United Nations standby arrangements system and the organization of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters, as well as the establishment of the Multinational United Nations Standby Forces High Readiness Brigade (SHIRBRIG). The mechanism of economic sanctions must also be refined in order to avoid causing suffering to innocent civilians while putting maximum pressure on the leaders of the country or region concerned.

108. All those measures, especially peace-building, were assuming increasing importance. In the case of the conflict in Georgia, the ongoing negotiations in Geneva were dealing with political, economic and social issues, but the vital issue of refugee return remained unresolved, since no mechanism was being created to provide legal and other guarantees for returnees. That situation revealed the serious deficiencies of the entire peace-building process in Georgia.

109. With regard to cooperation with regional organizations, his delegation felt that such organizations could react more quickly to conflicts affecting the security and stability of neighbouring States in the region. One example of effective cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations was that between the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and those of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). However, it must be stressed that primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security rested with the United Nations.

110. Another important aspect of peacekeeping operations was the safety and protection of peacekeeping personnel, which must be a top priority for all States. Since the parties concerned could not always guarantee the protection of such personnel, his delegation favoured the establishment of self-protection units, especially in Georgia. Lastly, his Government paid tribute to all the staff of United Nations peacekeeping operations who had worked for peace in Georgia.

111. *Mr. Macedo (Mexico), Chairman, resumed the Chair.*

112. **Mr. Fils-Aimé** (Haiti) paid tribute to United Nations peacekeepers, especially those martyrs for peace who had given their lives to save thousands of innocent people. He wondered what the international community could do to protect the peacekeeping personnel deployed in various operations throughout the world. Despite the achievements of peacekeeping operations, it was necessary, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/53/1), to organize the "deployment of forces to prevent violence from breaking out in the first place in situations where there was an obvious danger of that happening", without waiting for the spectacle of uncontrolled violence to unfold, with all its tragic consequences. The United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP), established in 1992 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, demonstrated the effectiveness of preventive measures.

113. In order to justify delays in the deployment of forces, some people invoked, among others, the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. While Haiti was proud of its independence and upheld the principle of sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which called for negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation and arbitration and judicial settlement of conflicts, it believed, nevertheless, that the sovereignty of a State included the sovereignty of all its people. The international community must therefore ensure that civil, ethnic, cultural or religious conflicts did not degenerate into holocausts. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the importance which the Special Committee attached to standby forces arrangements and to rapidly deployable peacekeeping operations, which must have clearly defined mandates, a sound command structure and sufficient funds to fulfil their objectives.

114. With respect to the important role played by civilian police in peacekeeping operations, his delegation noted that the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti, established on 28 November 1997, had made a major contribution to the professionalization of the national police. His Government was grateful to those States which had provided police officers for the Mission and to the United Nations for the assistance which it had given the country.

115. Haiti strongly believed in the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional mechanisms and organizations and therefore welcomed the special attention being paid to building the institutional capacity of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for peacekeeping. Peace-building also involved the strengthening of economic cooperation, since peace and economic development went hand in hand.

116. Despite their advantages and effectiveness, peacekeeping operations would not be able to eliminate the underlying causes of conflicts. When people saw their interests threatened, they unfortunately sometimes yielded to their basest instincts in defending them. In order to arrive at lasting peace, efforts to perfect the human spirit must continue, *inter alia*, by developing and maintaining a culture of peace. His delegation therefore welcomed the inclusion of an item entitled "Culture of peace" in the agenda of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.